

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11
HEW-06 OES-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 SSM-05 OIC-02 /169 W
-----044317 082045Z /64

R 081737Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9340

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07006

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO IS XF

SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY - MIDDLE EAST ISSUE
(AGENDA ITEM 3.10) - REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF
EXPERTS

REF: STATE 114641

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S (SC) REPORT ON "HEALTH
CONDITIONS OF ARAB POPULATION IN OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE "HAS NOW BEEN CIRCULATED
BY WHO SECRETARIAT AS CONFERENCE DOCUMENT. ADDRESSEES
MAY FIND DESCRIPTION OF REPORT USEFUL. REPORT INDICATES
SC WENT PRETTY MUCH WHERE IT WISHED, SPOKE WITH WHOM-
EVER IT WANTED TO, AND FOUND HEALTH CONDITIONS NOT
TERRIBLY BAD ANYWHERE. ITS MAIN CRITICISM IS ABSENCE
OF GOOD TWO-WAY LINKAGES AMONG GOVERNMENT, HEALTH
PROFESSIONS AND PEOPLE OWING TO MILITARY OCCUPATION.
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SC'S PRINCIPAL CONCLUSION IS THAT HEALTH PROBLEMS OF
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CAN BE SOLVED ONLY TO EXTENT THAT
POLITICAL PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. SC REPORT (COPY POUCHED TO IO/HDC) IS 7-PAGE DOCU-
MENT WITH 8 ANNEXES AND IS DATED MAY 3. IT BEGINS WITH
ACCOUNT OF PREPARATIONS BY SC CHAIRMAN (SENEGAL) FOR
VISIT, INCLUDING CORRESPONDENCE WITH ISRAELI HEALTH
AUTHORITIES, ASSEMBLING OF THE THREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
IN GENEVA, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC'S MANDATE, CONTACTS
WITH JORDAN, SYRIA, LEBANON, EGYPT AND PERMANENT OBSERVER
OF PLO IN GENEVA BEFORE DEPARTURE. REPORT THEN DISCUSSES
CONDITIONS OF VISIT (APRIL 7-20). EXCEPT FOR MINOR
DIFFICULTIES ON FIRST DAY, WHEN SC WAS UNABLE TO VISIT
TWO CLINICS IT HAD ASKED TO SEE, SC WAS ABLE TO CARRY
OUT ITS MANDATE FREELY. IT VISITED 43 MEDICAL
ESTABLISHMENTS AND ONE PRISON, ACCOMPANIED EVERYWHERE BY
HEAD OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF ISRAELI HEALTH MINISTRY.

3. REPORT DEALS SUCCESSIVELY WITH "TECHNICAL" QUESTIONS,
ADMINISTRATIVE ONES, SOCIAL ASPECTS, AND CONCLUDES WITH
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. "TECHNICAL" SECTION NOTES

INSUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT DURING PERIOD
1967-77, SATISFACTORY SUPPLY OF DRUGS AND (WITH
EXCEPTIONS) EQUIPMENT, INCREASED SUPPLY OF DOCTORS AND
NURSES (BUT HAVING TENDENCY TO LEAVE FOR BETTER JOBS),
VARYING STANDARDS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN VARIOUS OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES, AND POSSIBLY SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM
RESULTING FROM OCCUPATION PRESSURES. ON LAST POINT, SC
DEPLORES ABSENCE OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND STATISTICAL
STUDIES TO ENABLE IT TO REACH A CONCLUSION.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION MENTIONS CENTRAL FINDING OF

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HEALTH SERVICES, INSUFFICIENCY OF HEALTH PLANNING (WITH SOME IMPROVEMENT IN SIGHT), AND INADEQUACY OF REMUNERATION OF ARAB DOCTORS IN PUBLIC SECTOR (WHO CONSEQUENTLY TAKE UP PRIVATE PRACTICE ON SIDE).

5. SOCIAL ASPECTS SECTION REFERS FAVORABLY TO NEW HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (STARTED IN FEBRUARY 1978), BUT CRITICIZES FAMILY SEPARATIONS AND JOB INSECURITY AMONG ARAB HEALTH WORKERS. SC FOUND ASHKELOW PRISON OVERCROWDED (485 PRISONERS INSTEAD OF 400 IT WAS PLANNED FOR), BUT CHIEF COMPLAINTS OF PRISONERS CONCERNED LONG DURATION OF SENTENCES AND ONLY MONTHLY FAMILY VISITS. ON VISITS TO RAMALLAH AND EL ARISH, SC HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT THAT IT IS NOT ALLOWED TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC FUND-RAISING AND SUFFERS OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS, BUT REPORT INDICATES USEFUL HEALTH SERVICES ARE NEVERTHELESS BEING PERFORMED BY RED CRESCENT.

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6. FINAL SECTION, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, SUGGESTS CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, STRENGTHENING OF CERTAIN HEALTH SERVICES (E.G. TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL IN CENTRAL SINAI, AND ADDITIONAL OUT-PATIENT

CARE FOR MENTAL DISORDERS), IMPROVED PLANNING AND
HEALTH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF
SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE TO COMPLEMENT HEALTH SERVICES.
REPORT CONCLUDES WITH COMMENT THAT WHATEVER IMPROVEMENTS
OCCUR CANNOT PRODUCE "COMPLETE STATE OF PHYSICAL, MENTAL
AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING" (WHO'S DEFINITION OF HEALTH)
SO LONG AS PEOPLE VISITED LIVE UNDER AUTHORITY OF
OCCUPYING POWER. VANDEN HEUVEL

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